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## beta cell

## BEV

**be'** *n.* The isomeric form of carotene that is widely distributed in nature and most efficiently converted to vitamin A.

**beta cell** *n.* 1. Any of the insulin-producing cells of the islets of Langerhans in the pancreas. 2. Any of the basophilic chromophil cells located in the anterior lobe of the pituitary gland.

**beta decay** *n.* Radioactive decay in which a beta particle is emitted by an atomic nucleus.

**be-ta-line** (be'ta-en', -in) *n.* 1. An alkaloid,  $C_5H_9NO_5$ , found esp. in sugar beets and used to treat certain metabolic disorders. 2. Any of several similar alkaloids. [Lat. *bēta*, *bēt* + *-ine*.]

**be-take** (bi-tak') *tr.v.* -took (-took'), -tak-en (-tak'en), -tak-ing, -takes 1. To make (oneself) move. 2. *Archaic* To commit.

**be-ta-meth-a-son** (ba'ta-meth'a-sōn', be'-) *n.* A synthetic glucocorticoid,  $C_{22}H_{35}FO_6$ , used as a topical anti-inflammatory agent. [BETA + METH(YL) + (PREDN)IS(OL)ONE.]

**beta particle** *n.* A high-speed electron or positron, esp. one emitted in radioactive decay.

**beta ray** *n.* A stream of beta particles, esp. of electrons.

**be-ta-re-cep-tor** (ba'ta-ri-sēp'tər, be'-) *n.* A site on a cell in the autonomic nervous system in which inhibitory responses occur when adrenergic agents, such as epinephrine and norepinephrine, are released.

**beta rhythm** *n.* See **beta wave**.

**beta sheet** *n.* A secondary structure that occurs in many proteins and consists of two or more parallel adjacent polypeptide chains arranged in such a way that hydrogen bonds can form between the chains. Also called *beta pleated sheet*, *pleated sheet*.

**beta test** *n.* The final stage in the testing of new software before its commercial release. —**be'ta-test'** (ba'ta-tēst', be'-) *v.*

**be-ta-tron** (ba'ta-trōn', be'-) *n.* A magnetic induction particle accelerator capable of producing high-energy electrons.

**beta wave** *n.* A waveform in electroencephalograms of the adult brain, characteristically of a frequency from 13 to 30 hertz and accompanying an alert or anxious waking state.

**be-tel** (bē'tel) *n.* An evergreen Indo-Malayan climbing or trailing shrub (*Piper betle*) having leaves used to wrap betel nuts. [Port. < Malayalam *vettila*, *vettila* < Tamil *vettilai*.]

**Be-tel-geuse** (bē'tel-jōz', bē'tel-jōz') *n.* A bright-red intrinsic variable star in the constellation Orion. [Fr. *Bételgeuse*, ult. < Ar. *yad al-jawzā*: *yad*, hand + *al-*, the + *jawzā*, Gemini (later also Orioo).]

**betel nut** also **be-tel-nut** (bē'tel-nūt') *n.* The seed of the betel palm, chewed with betel leaves and lime as a mild stimulant.

**betel palm** *n.* A tropical Asian feather-leaved palm (*Areca catechu*) cultivated for its seeds.

**bête noire** (bet nwār') *n.* One that is particularly disliked or that is to be avoided. [Fr. *bête*, beast + *noire*, black.]

**beth** (bē't) *n.* The second letter of the Hebrew alphabet. [Heb. *bēt* < Phoenician *bēt*, house; 2nd letter of the Phoenician alphabet.]

**Beth-a-ny** (bēth'a-nē) A village of ancient Palestine at the foot of the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem. According to the Bible, it was the site of the resurrection of Lazarus.

**Be-the** (ba'te), Hans Albrecht 1906–2005. German-born American physicist who won a 1967 Nobel Prize.

**beth-el** (bēth'al) *n.* 1. A hallowed or holy place. 2a. A chapel for seafarers. b. Chiefly British A Nonconformist chapel, esp. a Baptist or Methodist one. [Heb. *bēt 'el*, house of God: *bayit*, house + *'el*, God.]

**Beth-el** (bēth'al, bēth'el') A town of ancient Palestine N of Jerusalem; now a major archaeological site.

**Be-thes-da** (bə-thēz'də) An unincorporated city of W-central MD, a suburb of Washington DC. Pop. 55,300.

**be-think** (bi-think') *v.* -thought (-thōt'), -think-ing, -thinks —*tr.* 1. To make (oneself) consider. 2. To remind (oneself); remember. —*intr.* *Archaic* To meditate. [ME *bihtinken* < OE *behtencan*.]

**Beth-le-hem** (bēth'li-bēm', -lē-əm) 1. A town in the West Bank S of Jerusalem; traditional birthplace of Jesus. Pop. 29,000. 2. A city of E PA on the Lehigh R. NNW of Philadelphia. Pop. 71,300.

**Be-thune** (bə-thōon', -thyoōn'), Mary McLeod 1875–1955. Amer. educator who sought improved racial relations and educational opportunities for African Americans.

**be-tide** (bi-tid') *v.* -tid-ed, -tid-ing, -tides —*tr.* To happen to. —*intr.* To take place; befall. [ME *bitiden*: *bi-*, *be-* + *tiden*, to happen (< OE *tīdan*; see **TIDE**).]

**be-times** (bi-timz') *adv.* 1. In good time; early. 2. Once in a while; on occasion. 3. *Archaic* Quickly; soon. [ME *bitimes*: *bi-*, *by-*; see **BY** + *time*, time; see **TIME** + *-es*, *adv. suff.*; see *-s*.]

**bē-tise** (bə-tēz') *n., pl. -tises* (-tēz') 1. Stupidity; folly. 2. A stupid or foolish act or remark. [Fr. < *bête*, beast, fool, foolish < OFr. *beste*, beast. See **BEAST**.]

**Be-tje-man** (bēch'a-mən), Sir John 1906–84. British writer and poet laureate (1972–84) whose works include *A Few Late Chrysanthemums* (1955).

**be-to-ken** (bi-tō'kən) *tr.v.* -kened, -ken-ing, -kens To be or give a sign or portent of. [ME *bitokenen*: *bi-*, *be-* + *tokenen*, to signify (< OE *tācnian*; see *deik-* in App.).]

**bet-o-ny** (bē't-nē) *n., pl. -nies* 1. Any of several plants of the widespread genus *Stachys* in the mint family, esp. *S. officinalis*, native chiefly to Europe and once used in medicine. 2. The louse-wood. [ME < OFr. *betoine* < Med.Lat. *betonia*, both < Lat. *vetō-*

*nica*, prob. < *Vettonēs*, an ancient Iberian tribe.]

**be-took** (bi-tōok') *v.* Past tense of **betake**.

**be-tray** (bi-trāf') *tr.v.* -trayed, -tray-ing, -trays 1a. To give aid or information to an enemy of; commit treason against. b. To deliver into the hands of an enemy in violation of a trust or allegiance. 2. To be false or disloyal to. 3. To divulge in a breach of confidence. 4. To make known unintentionally. 5. To reveal against one's desire or will. 6. To lead astray; deceive. See **Syns** at **deceive**. [ME *bitrayen*: *bi-*, *be-* + *trayen*, to betray (< OFr. *trair* < Lat. *tradere*, to hand over; see **TRADITION).] —**be-trayal** *n.* —**be-tray'er** *n.***

**be-troth** (bi-troth', -trōth') *tr.v.* -trothed, -troth-ing, -troths 1. To promise to give in marriage. 2. *Archaic* To promise to marry. [ME *bitrouthen*: *bi-*, *be-* + *trouth*, *trōth* (< OE *trēowth*; see **deru-** in App.).] —**be-trothed'** (-trōthd', -trōtht') *adj. & n.*

**be-troth-al** (bi-trōth'al, -trōth'al) *n.* 1. The act of betrothing or the fact of being betrothed. 2. A mutual promise to marry.

**bet-ta** (bēt'a) *n.* Any of various species of small, brightly colored, long-finned freshwater fishes of the genus *Betta*, found in southeast Asia. [NLat. *Betta*, genus name.]

**bet-ter** (bēt'ər) *adj.* Comparative of **good**. 1. Greater in excellence or higher in quality than another or others. 2. More useful, suitable, or desirable than another or others. 3. More highly skilled or adept than another or others. 4. Greater or larger: the better part of an hour. 5. More advantageous or favorable; improved. 6. Healthier or more fit than before. —*adv.* Comparative of **well**. 1. In a more excellent way. 2a. To a greater extent or degree. b. To greater advantage; preferably: better left undone. See **Usage Notes** at **best**, **have**, **rather**. 3. More: better than a year. —*n.* 1. One that is greater in excellence or higher in quality. 2. A superior, as in standing, competence, or intelligence. Often used in the plural. —*v.* -tered, -ter-ing, -ters —*tr.* 1. To make better; improve. 2. To surpass or exceed. —*intr.* To become better. —*Idioms*: better off In a better or more prosperous condition. for the better Resulting in or aiming at an improvement. think better of To change one's mind about (a course of action) after reconsideration. [ME < OE *betera*.]

**bet-ter** (bēt'ər) *n.* Variant of **bettor**.

**better half** *n.* Informal One's spouse. [*< my better half*, the larger part of me, a close friend.]

**bet-ter-ment** (bēt'ər-mənt) *n.* 1. An improvement over what has been the case. 2. Law An improvement beyond normal upkeep that adds to the value of real property.

**bet-ter-off** (bēt'ər-ōf', -ōf') *adj.* Being in a better or more prosperous condition: a visit to her better-off relatives.

**bet-tor** also **bet-ter** (bēt'ər) *n.* One that bets or places a bet.

**be-tween** (bi-twēn') *prep.* 1a. In or through the position or interval separating. b. Intermediate to, as in quantity, amount, or degree: between 15 and 20 dollars. 2. Connecting spatially. 3. Associating or uniting in a reciprocal action or relationship. 4. In confidence restricted to: between you and me, he is not qualified. 5a. By the combined effort or effect of. b. In the combined ownership of: a few dollars between them. 6. As measured against.

Often used to express a reciprocal relationship: choose between riding and walking. —*adv.* In an intermediate space, position, or time; in the interim. —*Idioms*: in between In an intermediate situation. in between times During an intervening period; in the meantime. [ME *bitwene* < OE *betwēonum*. See **dwo-** in App.]

—**between-ness** *n.*

**USAGE NOTE** According to a widely repeated but unjustified tradition, "between is used for two and among for more than two."

It is true that *between* is the only choice when exactly two entities are specified: the choice between good and evil. When more than two entities are involved, however, or when the number of entities is unspecified, both words are possible depending on the intended sense: *between* is used when the entities are considered as distinct individuals; *among* when they are considered as a mass or collectivity. Thus in the sentence *The bomb landed between the houses*, the houses are seen as points that define the boundaries of the area of impact. In *The bomb landed among the houses*, the area of impact is considered to be the general location of the houses taken together. *Among* is most appropriate to indicate inclusion in a group: *She is among the best of our young sculptors*. *Between* is preferred when the entities are seen as determining the limits or endpoints of a range: *They searched the area between the river, the farmhouse, and the woods*.

**be-tween-brain** (bi-twēn'brān') *n.* See **diencephalon**.

**be-tween-times** (bi-twēn'timz') *adv.* At or during pauses.

**be-twixt** (bi-twixt') *adv. & prep.* Between. —*Idioms*: betwixt and between In an intermediate position. [ME *bitwixt* < OE *betwix*. See **dwo-** in App.]

**Beu-lah** (byoo'la) *n.* 1. The land of Israel in the Bible. 2. The land of peace described in John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*.

**beurre blanc** (būr' blāngk', beer blān') *n.* A sauce made with butter, shallots, and vinegar or lemon juice. [Fr.: *beurre*, butter + *blanc*, white, not browned.]

**Beuys** (boiz, bois), Joseph 1921–86. German sculptor and performance artist also known for his political activism.

**BeV** abbr. billion electron volts

**BEV** abbr. Black English Vernacular



Mary McLeod Bethune  
c. 1943 portrait by Betsy  
Graves Reynau  
(1888–1964)



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- bête noire** \bet-'nwär, 'bät- n, pl **bêtes noires** \same or -'nwär\ [F, lit., black beast] : a person or thing strongly disliked or avoided
- beth-el** \be-thəl n [Heb *bēth 'ēl* house of God] : a place of worship esp. for seamen
- be-think** \bi-'think\ *vb* -thought \-'thot\; -think-ing : REMEMBER; *also* : PONDER
- be-tide** \bi-'tid\ *vb* : to happen to
- be-times** \bi-'timz\ *adv* : in good time : EARLY ♦ **Synonyms** SOON, SEASONABLY, TIMELY
- be-to-ken** \bi-'tō-kən\ *vb* 1 : PRESAGE 2 : to give evidence of ♦ **Synonyms** INDICATE, ATTEST, BESPEAK, TESTIFY
- be-tray** \bi-'trā\ *vb* 1 : to lead astray; *esp* : SEDUCE 2 : to deliver to an enemy 3 : ABANDON 4 : to prove unfaithful to 5 : to reveal unintentionally; *also* : SHOW, INDICATE ♦ **Synonyms** MISLEAD, DELUDE, DECEIVE, BE-GUILE — **be-tray-al** n — **be-tray-er** n
- be-troth** \bi-'trōth, -'trōth\ *vb* : to promise to marry — **be-troth-al** n
- be-trothed** n : the person to whom one is betrothed
- bet-ter** \be-'tər\ *adj*, comparative of GOOD 1 : greater than half 2 : improved in health 3 : more attractive, favorable, or commendable 4 : more advantageous or effective (a ~ solution) 5 : improved in accuracy or performance
- better** *vb* 1 : to make or become better 2 : SURPASS, EXCEL
- better** *adv*, comparative of WELL 1 : in a superior manner 2 : to a higher or greater degree; *also* : MORE
- better** n 1 : something better; *also* : a superior esp. in merit or rank 2 : ADVANTAGE
- better** verbal auxiliary : had better (you ~ hurry)
- better half** n : SPOUSE
- bet-ter-ment** \be-'tər-mənt\ n : IMPROVEMENT
- bet-tor** or **bet-ter** \be-'tər\ n : one that bets
- be-tween** \bi-'twēn\ *prep* 1 : by the common action of (earned \$10,000 ~ the two of them) 2 : in the interval separating (an alley ~ two buildings); *also* : in intermediate relation to 3 : in point of comparison of (choose ~ two cars)
- between** *adv* : in an intervening space or interval
- be-twixt** \bi-'twixt\ *adv* or *prep* : BETWEEN
- bev-el** \be-'vəl\ n 1 : a device for adjusting the slant of the surfaces of a piece of work 2 : the angle or slant that one surface or line makes with another when not at right angles
- bevel** *vb* -eled or -elled; -el-ing or -el-ling 1 : to cut or shape to a bevel 2 : INCLINE, SLANT
- bev-er-age** \be-'rij\ n : a drinkable liquid
- bevy** \be-'vē\ n, pl **bev-ies** 1 : a large group or collection 2 : a group of animals and esp. quail
- be-wall** \bi-'wāl\ *vb* : LAMENT ♦ **Synonyms** DEPLORE, BEMOAN, GRIEVE, MOAN, WEEP
- be-ware** \-'wer\ *vb* : to be on one's guard : be wary of
- be-wil-der** \bi-'wil-dər\ *vb* : PERPLEX, CONFUSE ♦ **Synonyms** MYSTIFY, DISTRACT, PUZZLE — **be-wil-der-ment** n
- be-witch** \-'wich\ *vb* 1 : to affect by witchcraft 2 : CHARM, FASCINATE ♦ **Synonyms** ENCHANT, ATTRACT, CAPTIVATE — **be-witch-ment** n
- bey** \bā\ n 1 : a former Turkish provincial governor 2 : the former native ruler of Tunis or Tunisia
- be-yond** \be-'änd\ *adv* 1 : FARTHER (extends to the river and ~) 2 : BESIDES
- beyond** *prep* 1 : on or to the farther side of 2 : out of the reach or sphere of 3 : BESIDES
- be-zel** \be-'zəl, 'be- n 1 : a rim that holds a transparent covering (as on a watch) 2 : the faceted part of a cut gem that rises above the setting
- bf** *abbr* boldface
- BG** or **B Gen** *abbr* brigadier general
- Bh** symbol bohrium
- bhang** \bān\ n [Hindi *bhāṅg*] : HEMP; *also* : a mildly intoxicating preparation made from hemp leaves
- Bi** symbol bismuth
- BIA** *abbr* Bureau of Indian Affairs
- bi-an-nu-al** \bi-'an-yə-wəl\ *adj* : occurring twice a year — **bi-an-nu-al-ly** *adv*
- bi-as** \bi-'əs\ n 1 : a line diagonal to the grain of a fabric 2 : PREJUDICE, BENT
- bias** *adv* : on the bias : DIAGONALLY (cut cloth ~)
- bi-as** *vb* bi-ased or bi-assed; bi-as-ing or bi-as-sing : PREJUDICE
- bi-ath-lon** \bi-'ath-lən, -'län\ n : a composite athletic contest consisting of cross-country skiing and target shooting with a rifle
- bib** \bib\ n : a cloth or plastic shield tied under the chin to protect the clothes while eating
- bib** *abbr* Bible; biblical
- bi-be-lot** \bē-bə-'lō\ n, pl **bibelots** \same or -'lōz\ : a small household ornament or decorative object
- bi-ble** \bi-bəl\ n [ME, fr. OF, fr. ML *biblia*, fr. Gk, pl. of *biblion* book, dim. of *byblos* papyrus, book, fr. *Byblos*, ancient Phoenician city from which papyrus was exported] 1 *cap* : the sacred scriptures of Christians comprising the Old and New Testaments 2 *cap* : the sacred scriptures of Judaism; *also* : those of some other religion 3 : a publication that is considered authoritative for its subject — **bib-li-cal** \bi-bli-kəl\ *adj*
- bib-li-og-ra-phy** \bi-blē-'ā-grə-fē\ n, pl **-phies** 1 : the history or description of writings or publications 2 : a list of writings (as on a subject or of an author) — **bib-li-og-ra-pher** \-fər\ n — **bib-li-o-graph-ic** \-ə-'gra-fik\ *also* **bib-li-o-graph-i-cal** \-fi-kəl\ *adj*
- bib-li-o-phile** \bi-blē-ə-'fi(-ə)\ n : a lover of books
- bib-u-lous** \bi-'byə-ləs\ *adj* 1 : highly absorbent 2 : fond of alcoholic beverages
- bi-cam-er-al** \bi-'ka-mə-rəl\ *adj* : having or consisting of two legislative branches
- bicar** \bi-'kərb, 'bi- n : SODIUM BICARBONATE
- bi-car-bon-ate** \bi-'kär-bə-'nāt, -nət\ n : an acid carbonate
- bicarbonate of soda** : SODIUM BICARBONATE
- bi-cent-ten-na-ry** \bi-sen-'te-nə-rē, bi-'sen-t'n-er-ē\ n : BICENTENNIAL — **bicentenary** *adj*
- bi-cent-ten-ni-al** \bi-sen-'te-nē-əl\ n : a 200th anniversary or its celebration — **bi-centennial** *adj*
- bi-ceps** \bi-'seps\ n, pl **biceps** *also* **bi-ceps-es** [NL, fr. L, two-headed, fr. *bi-* two + *caput* head] : a muscle (as in the front of the upper arm) having two points of origin
- bick-er** \bi-'kər\ n : ALTERCATION
- bicker** *vb* : to engage in a petty quarrel
- bi-coast-al** \bi-'kös-təl\ *adj* : living or working on both the east and west coasts of the U.S.
- bi-con-cave** \bi-(j)kän-'kāv, (j)bi-'kän-'kāv\ *adj* : concave on both sides
- bi-con-vex** \bi-(j)kän-'veks, (j)bi-'kän-'veks\ *adj* : convex on both sides
- bi-cus-pid** \bi-'kəs-pəd\ n : PREMOLAR
- bi-cy-cle** \bi-'si-kəl\ n : a light 2-wheeled vehicle with a saddle, pedals, and handlebars for steering
- bicycle** *vb* -cy-cled; -cy-cling \-si-k(ə-)liŋ, -sī- n : to ride a bicycle — **bi-cy-cler** \-k(ə-)lər\ n — **bi-cy-clist** \-k(ə-)list\ n
- bid** \bid\ *vb* bade \bād\ or bid; **bid-den** \bi-'d-n\ or **bid** *also* bade; **bid-ding** 1 : COMMAND, ORDER 2 : INVITE 3 : to give expression to (bade a tearful farewell) 4 : to make a bid : OFFER — **bid-der** n
- bid** n 1 : the act of one who bids; *also* : an offer for something 2 : INVITATION 3 : an announcement in a card game of what a player proposes to accomplish 4 : an attempt to win or gain (a ~ for mayor)
- bid-da-ble** \bi-də-'bəl\ *adj* 1 : OBEDIENT, DOCILE 2 : capable of being bid
- bid-dy** \bi-dē\ n, pl **biddies** : HEN; *also* : a young chicken
- bide** \bīd\ *vb* bode \bōd\ or bid-ed; bided; bid-ing 1 : to wait for 2 : WAIT, TARRY 3 : DWELL
- bi-det** \bi-'dā\ n : a bathroom fixture used esp. for bathing the external genitals and the anal region
- bi-di-rec-tion-al** \bi-də-'rek-sh(ə-)nəl\ *adj* : involving, moving, or taking place in two usu. opposite directions — **bi-di-rec-tion-al-ly** *adv*
- bi-en-ni-al** \bi-'e-nē-əl\ *adj* 1 : taking place once in two years 2 : lasting two years 3 : producing leaves the first year and fruiting and dying the second year — **biennial** n — **bi-en-ni-al-ly** *adv*
- bi-en-ni-um** \bi-'e-nē-əm\ n, pl **-ni-ums** or **-nia** \-ə\ [L, fr. *bi-* two + *annus* year] : a period of two years
- bier** \bir\ n : a stand bearing a coffin or corpse
- bi-fo-cal** \bi-'fō-kəl\ *adj* : having two focal lengths
- bifocals** \-kəl\ n pl : eyeglasses with lenses that have one



# Webster's New World<sup>TM</sup> Dictionary

Third College Edition

*Dedicated  
to David B. Guralnik  
lexicographical mentor  
and friend*

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**Bet-sy** (bet'se) a feminine name: see ELIZABETH (the given name)  
**betta** (bet'a) *n.* [ModL] any of a genus (*Betta*) of brightly colored, tropical, freshwater gouramies of SE Asia, esp. an aquarium species (*B. splendens*)

**bet-ter**<sup>1</sup> (bet'ar) *adj.* [ME *bettere*, *betere* < OE *betera*: see BEST] *compar. of GOOD* 1 of a more excellent sort; surpassing another or others 2 more suitable, more desirable, more favorable, more profitable, etc. 3 being more than half; larger (it cost the better part of her pay) 4 improved in health or disposition —*adv.* 1 *compar. of WELL* 2 in a more excellent manner; in a more suitable way 3 in a higher degree; to a greater extent 4 more (it took better than an hour) See also HAD BETTER (below) —*n.* 1 a person superior in authority, position, etc. (obey your betters) 2 the thing, condition, circumstance, action, etc. that is more excellent, more suitable, etc. 3 advantage (to get the better of a rival) —*vt.* 1 to outdo; surpass 2 to make better; improve —*vi.* to become better —**better off** 1 in a better situation or condition 2 having more income, wealth, etc. —**for the better** to a better or improved condition —**get (or have) the better of** 1 to outdo 2 to outwit —**had better** ought to; would be prudent or wise to: also [Colloq.] **better**

**bet-ter**<sup>2</sup> (bet'ar) *n.* var. of BETTOR

**better half** one's spouse; esp., one's wife: a humorous usage

**betterment** (-mənt) *n.* 1 a making or being made better; improvement 2 Law an improvement that increases the value of property and is more extensive than mere repairs

**bet-tor** (bet'ar) *n.* a person who bets

**Bet-ty** (bet'e) a feminine name: see ELIZABETH (the given name)

**be-tween** (bē twēn', bi-) *prep.* [ME *bitwene* < OE *betwēonum* < *be*, *by* + *twēonum* (dat. of \**twēon*); akin to Goth *twēihnai*, by twos, in pairs: for IE base see TWO] 1 in or through the space that separates (two things) 2 in or of the time, amount, or degree that separates (two things); intermediate to (between blue and green) 3 that connects or relates to (a bond between friends) 4 along a course that connects (the road runs between here and there) 5 by the joint action of (between them they landed the fish) 6 in or into the combined possession of (they had fifty dollars between them) 7 to the exclusion of all but both of (they divided it between them) 8 from one or the other of (choose between love and duty) 9 because of the combined effect of (between work and studies she has no time left) *Between* is sometimes used where more than two are involved, if the relationship is thought of as of each individually with each of the others (a treaty between four powers) —*adv.* 1 in an intermediate space, position, or function 2 in an intermediate time; in the interval —**between ourselves** in confidence; as a secret: also **between you and me** —**in between** 1 in an intermediate position 2 in the midst of

**between-brain** (-brān') *n.* DIENCEPHALON

**between-times** (-timz') *adv.* at intervals Also **between'whiles**

**be-twixt** (bē twixt', bi-) *prep., adv.* [ME *bitwix* < OE *betwix* < *be*, *by* + a form related to *twegen*, *twain*; -*t* is unhistoric] *between*: now archaic except in the phrase **betwixt and between**, in an intermediate position; neither altogether one nor altogether the other

**Beu-lah** (byōō'la) [Heb *beulah*, married] 1 the land of Israel: Isa. 62:4 2 in Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, a country of peace and rest near the end of life's journey: short for **Land of Beulah** 3 a feminine name

**beurre blanc** (bēr blān') [Fr. < *beurre* (< L *butyrum*, BUTTER) + *blanc*, white: see BLANK] a creamy sauce, especially for fish and seafood, made with butter, shallots, and lemon juice or vinegar

**BeV** or **Bev** (bev) *n., pl.* **BeV** or **Bev** [*b*(illion) *e*(lectron)-*v*(olts)] a unit of energy used in the U.S., equal to one billion (10<sup>9</sup>) electron-volts

**Bev-a-tron** (bev'a trān') [< *prec.* + -*tron*, as in CYCLOTRON] the synchrotron at the University of California, Berkeley, used to accelerate protons and other charged particles to an energy level of 6 GeV or more

**be-vel** (bev'al) *n.* [prob. < OFr. \**baivel*, dim. < *baif*, gaping: see BAY<sup>2</sup>] 1 a tool consisting of a rule with a movable arm, used in measuring or marking angles and in fixing surfaces at an angle: also

**bevel square** 2 an angle other than a right angle 3 sloping part or surface, as the angled edge of plate glass —*adj.* sloped; beveled —*vt.* **-eled** or **-elled**, **-eling** or **-elling** —*vi.* to slope at an angle; slant

**bevel gear** a toothed-wheel gear meshed with another so that their shafts are at an angle of less than 180°: see GEAR, illus.

**be-ver-age** (bev'ar ij') *n.* [ME < OFr. *beverage* < *beure* < L *bibere*, IMBIBE] any liquid for drinking, esp. other than water

**Bev-er-ley** or **Bev-erly** (bev'ar lē) [< ME *bever*, BEAVER<sup>1</sup> + *ley*, LEA<sup>1</sup>] a feminine name

**Beverly Hills** [after *Beverly Farms*, in Mass.] city in Calif., surrounded by Los Angeles: pop. 32,000

**bevy** (bev'e) *n., pl.* **be-vies** [ME *bevey* < Anglo-Fr. *bevé* < OFr. a drinking bout < *beure*: see BEVERAGE] 1 a group, esp. of girls or women 2 a flock: now chiefly of quail 3 any group or collection —*SYN.* GROUP

**be-wail** (bē wāl', bi-) *vt.* [ME *biwailen*: see BE- & WAIL] to wail over or complain about; lament; mourn

**be-ware** (bē wer', bi-) *vi., vt.* -ward', -war'ing [assoc. with BE,

imper. + WARE<sup>2</sup>, but prob. < OE *bewarian*, to keep watch < *be-* + *warian*, to watch, be wary] to be wary or careful (of); be on one's guard (against)

**be-wigged** (bē wīgd', bi-) *adj.* wearing a wig

**be-wil-der** (bē wīl'dar, bi-) *vt.* [BE- + WILDER] 1 to confuse hopelessly, as by something complicated or involved; befuddle; puzzle 2 [Archaic] to cause to be lost, as in a wilderness —*SYN.* PUZZLE

**be-wil'der-ingly** *adv.*

**be-wil-der-ment** (-mənt) *n.* 1 the fact or condition of being bewil-

dered 2 a confusion; jumble

**be-witch** (bē wīch', bi-) *vt.* [ME *biwīchen* < BE-, intens. + *wīchen* < OE *wīccan* < *wicca*, WITCH] 1 to use witchcraft or magic on; cast a spell over 2 to attract and delight irresistibly; enchant; fascinate; charm —**be-witch'ing** *adj.* —**be-witch'ingly** *adv.*

**be-witch-ment** (-mənt) *n.* 1 power to bewitch 2 a bewitching or being bewitched 3 a spell that bewitches Also **be-witch'ery** (-ər ē) *pl. -eries*

**be-wray** (bē rā') *vt.* [ME *biureien* < BE-, intens. + OE *wregan*, to inform; akin to Ger *rügen*, to blame] [Archaic] to divulge; reveal; betray

**Bex-ley** (beks'lē) borough of Greater London, England, on the Thames: pop. 218,000

**bey** (bā) *n.* [Turk *bey*, 'beg'] a Turkish title of respect and former title of rank

**Beyle** (bel), **Marie Hen-ri** (mā rē' ān rē') see STENDHAL

**be-yond** (bē ānd'; also, -yānd') *prep.* [ME *biyonde* < OE *begeondan* < *be*, *by* + *geond*, YONDER] 1 on or to the far side of; farther on than; past (beyond the river) 2 farther on in time than; later than (beyond the visiting hours) 3 outside the reach, possibility, or understanding of (beyond help, beyond belief) 4 more or better than; exceeding; surpassing (a success beyond one's expectations) 5 in addition to (he had no experience beyond school training) —*adv.* 1 farther out; farther away 2 in addition; besides —**the beyond** 1 whatever is beyond or far away 2 whatever follows death; afterlife: often **the great beyond**

**bez-ant** (bez'ant, bi zant') *n.* [ME *besant* < OFr. < L *Byzantius* (nummus), Byzantine (coin)] 1 the solidus, a gold coin issued in Byzantium: see SOLIDUS (sense 1) 2 *Archit.* Heraldry an ornamental flat disk or circular figure representing such a coin

**bez-antler** (bez, bāz) [< OFr. *bes-* < L *bis*, twice + *ANTLER*] BAY ANTLER

**be-zazz** (bi zāz') *n.* var. of PIZAZZ

**bezel** (bez'al) *n.* [< MFr. \**besel* (> Fr *biseau*) < ? OFr. *biais*, BIAS] 1 a sloping surface, as the cutting edge of a chisel 2 the slanting faces of a cut gem, esp. those of the upper half 3 a) the groove and flange holding a gem, watch, crystal, etc. in place b) a movable rim on a watch or clock that can be rotated so that marks on it can indicate certain kinds of data (an elapsed-time bezel)

**Bé-ziers** (bā zyā') city in S France: pop. 78,000

**be-zique** (bē zēk') *n.* [Fr *bésigue* < ?] a card game resembling pinocle, but using a double deck of 64 cards, two of each card above the six

**be-zoar** (bē'zōr') *n.* [Fr *bézoard* < Sp *bezoar* < Ar *bāzahr* < Pers *pāzahr* < *pād*, protecting (against) + *zahr*, poison] a concretion found in the stomach or intestines of some animals; esp. ruminants, and sometimes humans, formerly thought to be an antidote for poisons

**bf** boldface

**B/F** or **b/f** Bookkeeping brought forward

**BFA** or **B.F.A.** Bachelor of Fine Arts

**bg** bag

**B-girl** (bē'gurl') *n.* [short for *bar girl*] a woman employed by a bar to entice men into buying drinks freely

**BHA** [*b*(utylated) *h*(ydroxy)*a*(niso)le)] a waxy, white, synthetic antioxidant, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>OHCH<sub>3</sub>, used as a preservative in foods containing fats and oils

**Bhagavad-Gita** (bug'e vād gē'tā) [Sans *Bhagavad-gītā*, Song of the Blessed One] a philosophic dialogue that is a sacred Hindu text, found in the *Mahābhārata*, one of the ancient Sanskrit epics  
**bhakti** (buk'tē) *n.* [Sans *bhakti*-, lit., a share < *bhājati*, (he) distributes < IE base \**bhag-*, to allot: see -PHAGOUS] Hinduism personal devotion to one deity

**hang** (bang) *n.* [Hindi < Sans *bhāṅgā*, *bhāṅgā*, hemp] HEMP (sense 1) Also sp. **bang**

**Bha-rat** (bu'rut) Sans. name of INDIA (the republic)

**Bhav-na-gar** (bou nug'ar) seaport in Gujarat state, W India, on the Arabian Sea: pop. 308,000: sometimes sp. **Bhau-na-gar**

**Bhn** Brinell hardness number

**Bho-pal** (bō pāl') city in central India; capital of Madhya Pradesh: pop. 672,000

**B-horizon** (bē'hō rī'zōn) *n.* the second soil zone, in which material leached from the overlying zone is concentrated: see ABC soil

**bhp** brake horsepower

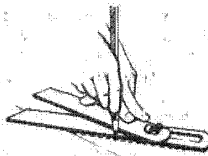
**BHT** [*b*(utylated) *h*(ydroxy)*t*(oluene)] a white, synthetic antioxidant, [C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>OH, used as an additive in foods, fuels, rubber, etc.

**Bhu-banes-war** (boo'bē nesh'war) city in E India, noted for its Hindu shrines: capital of Orissa: pop. 219,000

**Bhu-tan** (bōō tāt') independent kingdom in the Himalayas, north of the Indian state of Assam: monarchy established in 1907: c. 18,000 mi. (46,620 sq. km); pop. 1,446,000; cap. Thimphu —**Bhu-tan-ese** (bōō't n ēz'), *pl. -ese*, *adj., n.*

**bi** (bi) *adj., n.* [Slang] short for BISEXUAL

**bi-** (bi) [L *bi-* < OL *dui-* < IE \**dwī-* < base \**dwo-*, two] *prefix* 1 having two (biangular, bicapsular) 2 doubly, on both sides, in two ways or directions (biconvex, bilingual) 3 coming, happening, or



BEVEL